



Note From The Preacher Woman

Beloved:

As I prepared for Ash Wednesday this year, it occurred to me, that last year's Lenten season had never really ended. Emotionally and spiritually, 2020 gave us twelve months of Lent! Resurrection never seemed to come. We've trudged through the wilderness, tried to protect the weak, encouraged the other pilgrims along the way. We have made it once again to Holy Week. So, I've been thinking and wondering. Will resurrection come this year? And just what will resurrection look like? What am I hoping it will look like?



Years ago, a friend put a strange looking package on my desk. She explained that it was a "resurrection plant." It didn't look like much, kind of like a miniature tumble weed. I immediately thought, "Cool, I can use this on Easter Sunday." The instructions explained that the Jericho Rose was a plant that could survive years in a dormant state, and then come to life when moisture was provided. I was game. I dithered for a bit trying to decide if I should try it ahead of time, but then reflected that since I didn't know how long it would take to go back to dormant, I had better just save it for the "day of." I read the instructions, it seemed pretty straight forward—basically, they consisted of—add warm water, and I waited for Sunday. For children's time, I had the warm water ready. I explained to the children a little something about the plant, and then poured on the water. Nothing much happened. A few scraggly shredded-wheat-like arms uncurled. But that was about it. Ah well, it was worth a try. We were a bit disappointed, but I invited the kids to come back up after the service to see what progress it was making.

At the end of the service, we took another look. It was a bit more open. But it didn't really look like much. I wasn't sure what it was supposed to look like, but definitely not a "Rose of Jericho" a name that conjured up images of a beautiful flower of the desert. Maybe I just didn't follow the instructions well enough.

Cue the fast forward effect of calendar pages flying past (I think all this video editing has gone to my head) to last week. I realized I could use some help encouraging a bit of soul-blooming in preparation for Easter. So, why not try the experiment again? I got online, and in two days, my small scruffy package was in my mailbox. This time, I wouldn't rush. I would add warm water at home, and then take pictures as it emerged from dormancy. Every half hour or so, I would check in with the little mini-tumble weed, and check its progress.

Sure enough, over time, the little shredded-wheat arms began to unfurl and stretch outward. And after a couple of hours, it even turned green! Okay, then. This is more like it, Resurrection! I gave it a few more hours, changed its water bowl, and by evening, it looked about as good as it was going to get. Um. Hm. To my chagrin, it wasn't anything like what I was expecting. It wasn't what you could call pretty. It wasn't glorious, or even charming. It looked like one of those childhood experiments I used to do with my friends, where at the end we all just look at each other and say, "well, there's that."

I hate to admit I was disappointed. I did everything right this time around. I was patient. I followed directions. I made sure it had fresh water. And it "worked." The plant emerged from its dried state to become green. But the outcome was not what I was hoping for.

This week, we are very slowly emerging from the long Lent of the pandemic. I know we still need to be patient. We can't rush this. For the first time in over a year, we will be in the sanctuary. But we already know, that it isn't going to look anything like what we have been hoping. In comparison to what we all hold dear in our imaginations, it may even look down-right scruffy. But, oh Best-Beloved, it will be Resurrection! I'm going to reach out my scraggly shredded-wheat arms and give thanks that Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed! *Blessings and peace to you all! Alleluia! The Preacher Woman.*

Nita Carnagey: "Completely Retiring!"



Nita Carnagey has been attending Madras UMC since 1990. Around the year 2000 Nita was asked to be our Music Director and has held that position ever since. She built an amazing team and has been providing the beautiful music we have all come to love each Sunday.

Recently Nita made the decision to follow her son, Carl, and make the move to Kingsport Tennessee. She is retiring as of April 30, 2021. Although she has already packed up everything and sold her house in Redmond she will be around playing the part of a vagabond until her big move.

Nita said that she will miss both her music teams, here at the church and the Bluegrass band. She will also miss the congregation here at church and the many friends she has made. She is looking forward to being "completely retired." For the first time in a very long time she has no ties or responsibilities, she will be living a pretty carefree life. She will have all the time she wants to paint, weave, travel, and live her life of complete retirement. We wish her the best of luck on her new journey and hope she knows just how much she will be missed.



Holy Week

Madras United Methodist Church

Sunday: March 28, 2021: **Palm Sunday**, 11:00am

We will meet at the church at 11am for a parade route through town.
(Palms & Maps will be provided. Feel free to make signs and bring noise makers.)

Thursday, April 1, 2021: **Maundy Thursday** 5:00pm - 6:00pm

"Drive-Up" communion. Just drive up to the front of the church and receive communion and a blessing.

Friday, April 2, 2021: **Good Friday**, (2 worship times)
10am to 12pm & 5pm to 7pm

Our sanctuary will be open for Stations of the Cross: prayer, meditation, candle lighting

Sunday, April 4, 2021: **Easter Sunday**, (2 Services)

7:00am (Outside Service) & 11:00am (In the Sanctuary)

Indoor Service will be limited to 25 people, Please call and reserve your spot before Thursday March 25th (call or email office).

Remember to bring chairs and blankets (depending on the weather.)
Our regular video sermon will be available on Sunday.

(If we get a large response a third service may be added at 10am in the Fellowship Hall)



Shirley Utter, April 1

Doug Lieuallen, April 8

Dorothy Thomas, April 11

Larry Hartshorn, April 18

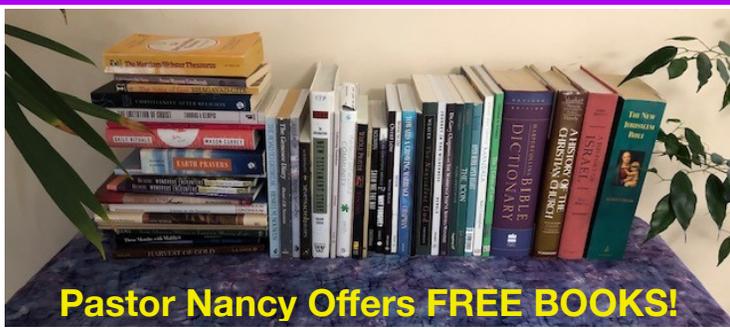
Camille Harris, April 18

Casey Callan, April 24

Gary Hamlet, April 29

Michele Gemelas, April 29

Nita Carnagey, April 30



Pastor Nancy Offers FREE BOOKS!

As Pastor Nancy prepares for her retirement she is working at downsizing, beginning with some of the books from her office. These books are located in the church narthex and you are welcome to take a

The Poet Thinks About the Donkey



*On the outskirts of Jerusalem the donkey waited.
Not especially brave, or filled with understanding
he stood and waited.*

*How horses, turned out into the meadows,
leap with delight!*

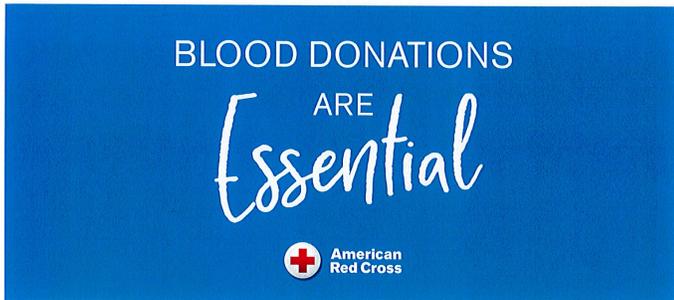
*How doves, released from their cages,
clatter away, splashed with sunlight.*

*But the donkey, tied to a tree as usual, waited.
Then he let himself be led away.
Then he let the stranger mount.*

*Never had he seen such crowds!
And I wonder if he at all imagined what was to happen.
Still, he was what he had always been:
small, dark, obedient.*

*I hope, finally, he felt brave.
I hope, finally, he loved the man who rode
so lightly upon him,
as he lifted one dusty hoof and stepped,
as he had to, forward.*

- Mary Oliver



Blood Drive Madras Community

United Methodist Church
49 NE 12th Street
Madras, OR 97741

**Wednesday, April 21, 2021
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: 1TRMadr to schedule an appointment.



Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



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Schedule a blood donation appointment today:

Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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NEW Sermon Series



If you could request one particular topic, scripture, or concept for a new series, what would it be? Pastor Nancy is looking for your ideas for May sermons. Let her know what you think! She looks forward to your ideas!

